JW only

10/8/71

Ned and Gary,

I am not making general distribution of the enclosed letter to Cyril Wecht, to which I will return.

This morning, early, I went into the post office to be certain that the last part of the last part of PM got out to Ned today. It may reach you before this, but because it is so large a package, it may also, by accident, at some point along the line be tossed into a bag of other than first-class mail.

I presume Ned will have no objections to being classified as a scholar or student!

In the enclose long and painful letter to Cyril, for whom I have long had high regard (even if he did mis everything in the panel report I had to tell him what it means, for he is very busy, making lots of money being very busy, and like so many skimmed it in haste)- in fact, I even made the copy of it for him), I have avpided spelling out wherein the danger lies. There are number of reasons for this. First, I don't know what his politics are, and that can be relevant. He is the county coroner. I don't know what he thinks about many things, like the Kennedys. He may be a kennedy-hater. I have met him in person but once. And I want him to think it out for himself.

Only one of the possibilities for the greatest counter-productivity, one that, if the government decides the time has come - and boy, could it have political value to the needing Nixon! - is that what he is up to provides a perfect mechanism for what I go into ia almost all my writing in one form ar another, as I have just come to realize in going over PM, is what I make explicit in the chapter of the new last part, Hades- Not Camelot.

They can let Cyril see the real things (or those that still exist) and let him come out and say the whole thing is a can of worms, and the full responsibility willl be pinned on the Kennedys, for it is under that contract that he is seeking access. (I have avpided the likelihood that John Nichols, who is worse, may do the same thing, but with Nichols there is little chance because they have refused him in suit).

Suddenly nobody else is at fauly. Hoover has another halo. The Commission lawyer-villains become martyrs to the awful Kennedys. Teddy, personally, is ruined or at best severely damaged. He is the one responsible once Bobby got killed. Read the contract.

All the villains are heors, all the victims are further victimized, and in the end we'll (collectively) know no more than we do now. I think it quite unlikely that the pictures and X-rays will disclose anything not in PM. But there they are in context. By themselves, especially with the opportunities Cyril's approach gives the government, they are worse than out of context: they can and will be used to exculpate the guilty. Neither nayone in the family nor Teddy today can, really, be called guilty of suppression.

I hope that Ned will forgive my seeming to tease in the short, perhaps hectic notes I have included in mailings, but I wanted to get enough on paper at one point for understanding to be possible. It is worse than I have indicated, for what I didn't learn until the day of the night of the first note is that on the q.t. Cyril has no objection from Burke Marshall and he has cautioned those he has told not to say anything (!!!!!) for the slightest publicity can kill it. I take this to be a reflection that he may have been given to understand that he will be shown them, and if this is correct, then I am without doubt of the fear I have. I also realize that this may be only his opinion, but suppose it is not? Even Nixon becomes a hero from it, for he is the President who "released" all this "suppressed evidence." If we vonsider the extensive amount of material that should never have been released in the 1970 declassification, which yields Hoover's answer to everything, statitistics, and what the proficient D.J. and White House p.r. people can do with this, can you get an idea od what I fear? And aside from the rgoss injustice and the public acknowledgement that the Warren Report is a falsity (can you picture Hoover or Mitchell or Nixon not relishing a chance to clobber Warren personally, especially when Supreme Court nominations are in the

offing? Or the support this can give to a bad or two bad nominees? There are many more considerations for which I do not take time, but one more I do emphasize: this will have the net effect of making the attaining of truth that much more difficult. If not impossible for the foreseeable future. I regard its potential as much more deadly that I have told Cyril. And on him, I am now satisfied that he has the Garrison/Bud sybdrome, this great yearning to be the hero. Alas.

Ned, if you doubt this, please ask for me to take the time I'm not now taking. I hope its potential is as obvious to you as I think it should be. We are well past the point where the question is merely was the Warren Report right. It has been years since anyone even suggested that to me. Nobody believes it and from the very beginning, few did. We critics had much less influence on opinion that most of us like to think. People didn't believe it to begin with. All the critics did was make is less difficult for people to say. I learned this early on the many talk shows I did. People, for the most part, never believed the official fiction. We just reduced their inhibitions. I think we really changed few minds. My own and very extensive correspondence reflects this, too. So, we should not be kidding ourselves on this point.

But the immediate question is where does this leave us? Let me address this in two ways. It makes a realx meeting and discussion with Teddy's people more urgent. Cyril can take the next step on the 29th. I would prefer to do this this with you, if that is possible. This is why, in one of the notes, I asked if you expect to be near here soon. It is also why, after so ,one a time, I wtote my Senator. I've sent you a copy of that letter. ~~Xxxxxx~~ He is an old friend, and he did try to help me in 1965, when he learned his lesson. I think he will see me, unless something I can't anticipate has given him more fear than I know of. It this is the case, and the 29th gets too close, I will stop off and talk to his wife, who is a great gal.

On the other hand, I have not in any way exaggerated the possible beneficial effects this can have on the commercial possibilities of any book. If this comes off as is possible, with the publicity it will serve federal interests to generate, any current book will go crazy. From a purely selfish point of view, If we can have any version of PM ready at that time, its success is virtually assured. What a helluva way to become a success!

Nowmyou can also understand why I took the time to write Lyle Stuart when I was trying to explore the possibility of readhing him indirectly. It is not only to interest him in the potential of the abridgement you are preparing(and I hope can now rush even more. The last link in all of this I didn't get until Tuesday, and then only by accident.

As I hope you can ~~xxx~~ realize, I hardly have time to stop and think everything through now. It is always more disturbing when those who should be our friends turn out to be our worst enemies. You can, for examphel,now understahd why, instead of writing you in full immediately, see why I had to finish going over the older parts of the book. If Cyril plunges ahead, which I regard as the greater possibility, for it is his ego and ambition, not his fine mind, that is now in control, it is even more urgent that a counterweight be immediately available. (Actually, Cyril has not spent much time in real work on the subject. It is no deprecation to say that he keeps busy making money, His knowledge is narrow, limited from what I've been able to detect, to the defects in the autopsy itself. He is making so much he has been forced, as he explained to me in telling me why he would not be an expert witness in my pictures suit, to give up some very profitable arrangementxs.) This and his fine reputation makes him perfect for government misuse. And, of course, his record before the forensic-medical society and in Fink's book of disagreement with the WR.

As I think shows, all of this is deeply disturbing to me. And there are other things I must do. While I'd prefer not to discuss this further byphone, if necessary, I will.

Sincerely,